

Application No. 10/665245
Examiner: B. Avery
Art Unit 3618

REMARKS

The above claim amendments supplement the response filed on October 5, 2005. New claims 12-15 are added. The new claims are supported by the original disclosure, for example page 11, lines 11-30; original claims 1, 2, 8 and 9; and Figure 9. No new matter has been added. Claims 1 and 3-15 are pending.

New claims 12-15 are patentable over US 4,700,799 to Kawano and US 4,706,774 to Tsuboi.


Kawano discloses a frameless motorcycle with an attachment member 3 with multiple wall portions 5 that mount a V-type engine thereon. However, Kawano does not disclose supporting frames that extend longitudinally along right and left sides of the V-type engine, the supporting frames defining an opening therebetween so as to support the low floor and allow the V-type engine to be arranged below the low floor, as recited in claim 12. Nor does Kawano disclose supporting frames extending longitudinally along right and left sides of the vehicle, the supporting frames defining an opening therebetween, a low floor supported by the supporting frames, and an engine supported in the opening of the supporting frames below the low floor, as recited in claim 14. There is no disclosure in Kawano that the attachment member 3 supports a low floor.

Tsuboi discloses a motorcycle rear suspension assembly. Tsuboi does not disclose supporting frames as recited in claims 12 or 14, or supporting frames that support a low floor.

Applicants believe that the pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration by the Examiner in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If any questions arise, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the number listed below.

Dated: Nov. 21, 2005

Respectfully Submitted,



Curtis B. Hamre

Reg. No.: 29,165

Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C.

P.O. Box 2902

Minneapolis, MN 55402

612.455.3800